Press release

First Met Office staff move west

23 January 2002

The Met Office announced today that staff from its training college will, subject to contract, be moving to Devon this autumn.

The Met Office College is the first part of the organisation to be relocated to the county as part of a mass programme over the next 18 months. Following discussions with various education centres, both in Devon and in the South East, the Met Office has decided that its staff shall be based temporarily at a site in Torbay. Twenty-five staff are expected to move to South Devon College, in Torquay, in September, which will be their base while the building work at the new operational centre and HQ in Exeter is completed. The Met Office training college is currently based at Shinfield Park, Reading, which will be sold for redevelopment.

Met Office Chief Executive, Peter Ewins, said: "We are most grateful to South Devon College for hosting our training college while our new premises are under construction in Exeter. This is yet another example of the tremendous support we have received from the people and authorities in Devon in our move to the West Country - probably the most complex move of its kind in Europe."

Notes

1. South Devon College have been chosen as the preferred bidder and formal contract negotiations are now underway.

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